

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8449

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15784

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, MCAP

SUBJECT: BURDENSARING

REF: NATO 5142

1. BOSS STATEMENT (REFTEL) THAT THE FRG WAS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS OF MULTILATERAL BURDENSARING FORMULAS IF OTHER ALLIES WISHED TO HAVE SUCH DISCUSSIONS REPRESENTS, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, NO ACTUAL SHIFT OF POSITION BY THE FRG. THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN WILLING TO TAKE PART IN TALKS ALONG WITH OTHER ALLIES ALTHOUGH, IN PRINCIPLE, THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO GO BEYOND A BILATERAL OFFSET AGREEMENT, AND A CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE PAYMENTS. HOWEVER, THEY REMAIN SKEPTICAL WHETHER OTHER COUNTRIES ARE WILLING AT THE PRESENT TIME TO DISCUSS A SERIOUS MULTILATERAL BURDENSARING
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PROGRAM. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH FONOFF AND MOD

OFFICIALS WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR EUROPEANS TO COME UP WITH A PROPOSAL, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT (STATE 209487), AND WE FIND OUR CONTACTS READILY RECOGNIZE THE NEW DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM AS WELL AS THE URGENCY WHICH THE NATO ALLIES MUST ADDRESS IT. HOWEVER, THEY SAY THAT THEY STILL HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL DECISIONS BY NATO COUNTRY LEADERS NECESSARY FOR A BURDENSARING EFFORT WHICH COULD REALLY ASSIST US.

2. THEY ALSO ARE CHAGRINED ABOUT THE COURSE THE NATO BURDENSARING DISCUSSIONS HAVE TAKEN. FOR INSTANCE, STEINHAUS, THE MOD PLANNING OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF BURDENSARING FOR THE DEFENSE MINISTRY, COMPLAINED RECENTLY TO US THAT MANY COUNTRIES IN NATO DID LITTLE BUT ADOPT DEFENSIVE POSITIONS IN HANDLING THE STUDY GROUP REPORT. THIS, HE THOUGHT, RESULTED IN A FRG-US CONFRONTATION WHICH WAS IN THE NEITHER OF OUR INTERESTS. ALONG THIS LINE, HE SAID WHEN HE TOLD ONE LOCAL NATO DIPLOMAT THAT THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT ADDED AN ELEMENT OF URGENCY TO THE BURDENSARING PROBLEM, THE LATTER REPLIED THAT MOST COUNTRIES WOULD PROBABLY TAKE ACTION ONLY AT THE LAST MOMENT TO AVERT A US TROOP REDUCTION. THIS, STEINHAUS THOUGHT, WAS INDICATIVE OF THE SLOW APPROACH IN SOME NATO COUNTRIES WHICH PRESENTED A REAL PERIL TO NATO. ONE FONOFF CONTACT TOLD US THAT THE FCO IS CONCERNED ABOUT JACKSON-NUNN, BUT THE UK IS NOT YET READY TO MOVE ON BURDENSARING.

HILLENBRAND

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